

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on March 17, 2006, in this application. As a preliminary matter, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination. Claim 19 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and its recitations have been incorporated into claims 1 and 18. Individual issues raised in the Office Action are addressed next.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,578,387 to Tankala in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0221459 to Walczak in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,551 to Tennent et al.

Claim 18, the base claim of allowable claim 19, has been rewritten to include the recitation of claim 19. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Further, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the recitations of both allowable claim 19 and its base claim, claim 18. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is also allowable, and that claims 2-17 that depend from claim 1 are allowable, for at least this reason.

Allowable Subject Matter

As previously noted, the Examiner indicated that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim (claim 18). As previously noted, the recitation of allowable claim 19 has been included in amended claims 1 and 18.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested.

As the shortened statutory period for response expired on June 17, 2006, a Saturday, this response on Monday, June 19 is believed to be timely, and no fee is believed to be due for this submission. In the event a fee is required please charge such a fee to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, he is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Date: June 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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